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HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC
HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1968

CULLINGFORD
COLCHESTER

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JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICES

HALSTEAD URBAN & RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS

Mount Hill, Halstead, Essex

Telephone: Halstead 2473

Medical Officer of Health

DR. JOHN HARKNESS

M.D., D.P.H., D.I.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

Also Medical Officer of Health, Halstead Urban District Council

and

Medical Officer, Essex County Council

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Public Health Inspector

HAROLD NIELD

F.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I., D.R.S.H.

Incorporated Public Health Engineer

Also Public Health Inspector, Halstead Urban District Council

Deputy Public Health Inspector	BRIAN A. J. TURNER M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	BERNARD J. DAVIES D.R.S.H.
	MICHAEL CRISP M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H. (to 9.6.68)
	GEOFFREY CUSDEN M.A.P.H.I. (from 17.7.68)
Technical Assistant	DAVID J. LAVER
Chief Clerk	BRUCE F. LAWS (from 29.1.68)
Clerical Assistant	Mrs. HELEN BARNARD (to 28.6.68)
	Mrs. JEAN G. GAYWOOD (from 24.6.68)
Clerk Typist	Miss VALERIE J. TREBLE
Pupil Public Health Inspector	JOHN R. TANSWELL
Part-time Rodent Operator	FRANK ANDREWS *Also Part-time Rodent Operator* Halstead Urban District Council Braintree Urban District Council Braintree Rural District Council & Witham Urban District Council

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the Health of the District during 1968.

Vital Statistics

The estimated population is 17,930, and there were 316 live births and one still birth which gives a birth rate of 20·9, compared with 16·9 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 10·4 per 1,000 of the population compared with 11·9 for England and Wales.

The population of the District continues to increase and the birth rate is higher than that of England and Wales, which is continuing to fall.

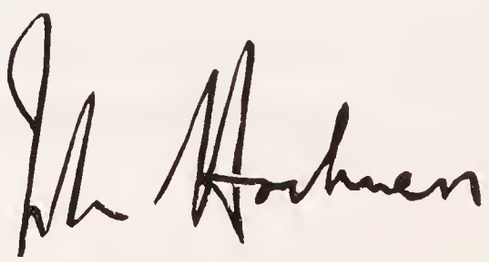
The death rate is also lower than that for England and Wales but it is disquieting to see that there were 11 deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus. The causal relationship between smoking and lung cancer has been well-established for some years and yet the public continue to ignore the well-publicised warnings which are being continually given. Too many adults confine their efforts to trying to persuade adolescents not to start smoking or if they have started, to stop the habit, while themselves ignoring the dangers. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that it is important that all adults and particularly those in association with schoolchildren and other adolescents should lead by example by themselves terminating this dangerous habit.

Infectious Diseases

There were 113 cases of Measles notified during the year. The immunisation programme commenced during the year, and it is hoped that the biennial epidemics of this disease will become yet another relic of the past. For this to be achieved, it is important that parents co-operate by bringing their children to be immunised.

Environmental Hygiene

The details of this work are described by Mr. Nield. Again it was a year of slow progress but it is only by such slow but progressive improvement in environmental facilities that standards are finally raised.



Medical Officer of Health

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my Annual Report on the environmental health services provided by your Public Health Inspectors during 1968.

The style of the report has remained largely unaltered over the years because of the form in which the Ministries insist these reports are written. Following the familiar pattern, it consists largely of statistics on the routine work of the department, with some brief comment, and records the steady progress made in the improvement of environmental conditions under subject headings of Housing, Food, Air Pollution, Waste Matters, Working Conditions, Water, Pests, etc. It does also show, however, what had to be neglected on account of the more pressing duties, and demonstrates clearly the breadth and volume of the service entailed.

The continuing improvement in environmental health conditions by "routine" protective and preventive public health duties can easily be overlooked. One example of an aspect of the work of your Public Health Inspectors which may not at once be obvious, is the "consumer protection" which covers the production of food, its preparation, transport, storage and sale, which is all subject to scrutiny to ensure that all food is fit for human consumption. With improved standards of living it might be assumed that environmental health would become of less significance. It is clearly evident, however, that this is not so. As some difficulties are overcome new hazards arise. Technological developments are themselves creating potential dangers and threatening the quality of our daily lives.

Housing in its many aspects again had priority in the work of your Public Health Inspectors. The encouragement of improved housing standards through financial grants and loans, the prevention of deterioration in the condition of older houses through routine inspection and enforcement action concerning disrepair, and the reconstruction or demolition of condemned houses through slum clearance proposals, all helped in making a major contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the District's social as well as environmental health conditions. There was, however, a further increase during 1968 in the number of condemned, unfit houses which continued to be occupied. One hundred and fifty-six is, by any standard, an excessively high number. The securing of early re-housing of families living in unfit dwellings, and the reconditioning or demolition of these houses, is a problem which should be overcome with the very minimum further delay. Public Health Inspectors' housing duties, however, do present many problems, and being charged with many onerous tasks, often must bear the odium for actions

which they are carrying out on instruction from central government. No problem causes more heartache and gives a worse public image than slum clearance.

Food supplies control and food hygiene work generally formed an appreciable proportion of your Public Health Inspectors' duties. It is stressed that the number of food complaints shown in the report does not reflect the true extent of the problems involved. The co-operation of the public in bringing unsatisfactory circumstances to the notice of your Public Health Inspectors is most important, and reticence in making official complaints continues to hinder progress in this matter. Unfortunately, most housewives in particular seem concerned only with the price of food and not the hygienic conditions under which it is sold. All butchers' meat slaughtered in the District continued to be inspected before being allowed to be removed from the slaughterhouses and all meat fit for human consumption officially stamped. When making their regular routine visits to slaughterhouses, your Public Health Inspectors also covered the aspects of general standards of hygiene and the prevention of cruelty to animals. Regular routine inspection of poultry at the poultry processing premises in the District was not however practicable on account of other more pressing duties, but occasional examinations were made as possible and inspections were carried out mainly on the "spotter" system. It should be appreciated, however, that many farms and small holdings processed and retailed poultry to some extent and especially during the Christmas period, and in the main processing at these premises was carried out unknown to your Public Health Inspectors and often under somewhat unhygienic conditions. Some proprietors of food preparation premises, shops, restaurants, etc., did not seem to realise that the existence of unhygienic conditions is an offence against the Food Hygiene Regulations and renders them liable to prosecution without warning. They were apt to consider that all they are required to do is remedy unsatisfactory conditions found during routine inspection by Public Health Inspectors.

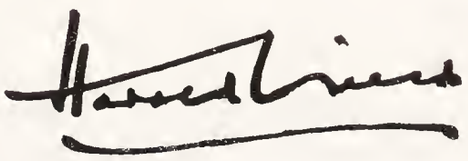
Air pollution, an environmental condition of major importance, was not a matter subject to local complaint, and pressure of other work did not permit the time and effort warranted to be devoted to this duty.

Drainage duties, both in connection with new and existing properties, were once again very time-consuming, and have in recent years increased with the greater availability of mains water supplies and public sewerage facilities. The progress made in the Council's programme for the provision of public sewerage and sewage disposal schemes throughout the district are detailed in the Report.

The control of the health and welfare aspects of working conditions by Public Health Inspectors under the provisions of Factories Acts, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, etc., was a matter which has continued to receive increasing attention in recent years, and the statistical details in the Report show continued improvement.

Pest control was also a routine environmental health duty which may easily be overlooked, although it has been given more prominence nationally recently. The very wide variety of pests which it is necessary for your Public Health Inspectors to identify, advise upon regarding disinfestation measures, and supply appropriate rodenticides, pesticides and insecticides, etc., are detailed in the Report.

Once again, it is a pleasure to record my thanks to the staff for their willing and loyal assistance, and to my colleagues in other departments for their courteous and helpful co-operation throughout the year.



Health Inspector

Area (in acres)	76,637
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	17,930
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1968) according to the Rate Books	7,350
Rateable Value	£465,150
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,797

Live Births:

	Total	*Male*	*Female*
Legitimate	299	159	140
Illigitimate	17	5	12
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population			17·6
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor of 1·19)			20·9
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			16·9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			5·4

Still Births

	Total	*Male*	*Female*
Legitimate	1	1	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			3·2
Total births (live and still)			317

Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	15·8
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	16·7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	—
Neo-natal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	9·5
Early neo-natal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	6·3
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and first week) per 1,000 live and still births	9·5
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	—

Deaths:

	Total	*Male*	*Female*
Deaths	236	122	114
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population			13·2
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor of 0·79)			10·4
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			11·9

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1968

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	0
Tuberculosis (other)	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Meningococcal infection	1	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	15
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	0
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	0
Diabetes	0	2
Other endocrine, etc., diseases	0	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	0	0
Coronary disease, angina	0	0
Hypertension with heart disease	1	4
Ischaemic heart disease	30	19
Other heart disease	5	11
Cerebrovascular disease	20	16
Other circulatory disease	4	4
Influenza	2	2
Pneumonia	12	5
Bronchitis and emphysema	5	3
Asthma	1	0
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	1
Other diseases of digestive system	0	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	0	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	0	2
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	0
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformation	0	0
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	1	3
Suicide	3	2
Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Totals	122	114

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	3	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis	0	0	0
Measles	113	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	1	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	1	1	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	3	0	0
Totals	123	1	0

Tuberculosis—New Cases Notified:

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0
1 and under 5 years	0	0	0	0
5 and under 10 years	0	0	0	0
10 and under 15 years	0	0	0	0
15 and under 20 years	0	0	0	0
20 and under 25 years	0	0	0	0
25 and under 35 years	0	0	0	0
35 and under 45 years	0	0	0	0
45 and under 55 years	0	0	0	0
55 and under 65 years	0	0	0	0
65 years and upwards	0	1	0	0
Totals	0	1	0	0

Transfers from other Districts: 0

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 1

1. HOUSING

(a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	250
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded	57
(3)	Inspections regarding reconditioning	314
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding	3
(5)	Inspections regarding Certificates of Disrepair	0
(6)	Inspections of caravan sites	4
(7)	Inspections of individual caravans	37
(8)	Miscellaneous Housing inspections	510
(9)	Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies	0

(b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served regarding disrepair and defects	14
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Housing Act regarding disrepair and defects	0
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act regarding disrepair and defects	0

(c) Unfit Houses

(1)	Houses officially reported Unfit to Council under Housing Act	46
(2)	(a) Undertakings accepted (i) to make fit for human habitation	2
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	0
	(b) Undertaking cancelled	2
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1968)	
	(i) to make fit for human habitation	4
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	27
(3)	(a) Closing Orders made	7
	(b) Closing Orders determined	7
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (Dec. 1968)	101
(4)	(a) Demolition Orders made	22
	(b) Demolition Orders revoked	4
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec. 1968)	134

(d) Slum Clearance Proposals

Details of the Council's ten years' Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables which show:—

(1) the approved proposals,
(2) the year-by-year progress made,
(3) the position at 31st December, 1968,
(4) occupation of unfit houses in parish detail.

(1)

Years	Total Houses in District Unfit for Human Habitation
1956–65	587 (including 198 remaining from previous proposals)
1966–75	598 (including 313 remaining from 1956–65 proposals)

(2)

Year	Houses Reported Unfit	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished	Council House Rehousings
1956	40	20	0	51	7	25	12
1957	52	6	0	38	15	27	8
1958	48	3	17	23	8	36	18
1959	55	5	3	32	10	25	19
1960	60	8	26	29	12	22	21
1961	43	6	11	33	16	17	11
1962	65	0	13	27	15	29	17
1963	62	1	22	45	14	37	9
1964	18	5	6	17	10	33	12
1965	83	0	13	31	29	28	10
1966	15	4	11	11	15	12	15
1967	39	1	6	26	18	20	4
1968	46	2	7	22	23	40	6
Totals	626	61	135	385	192	351	162

(3)

Unfit Houses Reported to Council and made subject to				Unfit Houses Awaiting Report to Council
Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	
31	101	134	12	190

Parish	Occupied Houses subject to				Vacant Houses subject to				Total Houses	
	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Action Pending	Occupied	Vacant
Alphamstone	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	4
Ashen	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Belchamp Otten	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Belchamp St. Paul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belchamp Walter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birdbrook	0	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	1
Borley	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bulmer	0	6	0	0	2	5	1	0	6	8
Bures Hamlet	0	3	0	0	0	2	3	0	3	5
Castle Hedingham	1	8	6	0	3	3	4	0	15	10
Colne Engaine	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
Earls Colne	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	6	0
Foxearth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gestingthorpe	0	0	3	2	0	0	8	0	5	8
Gosfield	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Great Henny	0	1	3	0	0	1	3	0	4	4
Great Maplestead	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	3
Great Yeldham	0	2	0	0	1	6	1	0	2	8
Halstead Rural	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	1	5
Helions Bumpstead	1	1	4	2	0	1	4	0	8	5
Lamarsh	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
Liston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Maplestead	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Little Yeldham	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	1
Middleton	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Ovington	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Pebmarsh	0	0	3	0	2	0	3	0	3	5
Pentlow	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Ridgewell	0	4	0	0	1	1	1	0	4	3
Sible Hedingham	0	10	10	3	1	10	9	0	23	20
Stambourne	0	1	7	0	0	1	3	0	8	4
St. Bumpstead	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sturmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tilbury-juxta-Clare	2	6	0	0	3	1	0	0	8	4
Toppesfield	0	0	9	0	0	0	5	0	9	5
Twinstead	2	1	3	0	0	1	3	0	6	4
White Colne	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	2
Wickham St. Paul	2	1	2	0	4	0	1	0	5	5
Totals:	10	66	68	11	21	35	66	1	155	123
Total Houses Owner-Occupied	7	29	24	4	0	0	0	0	64	0

(e) **Housing Improvements**

(1) Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors 189

(2) Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard" .. 42

(3) Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices 0

(4) Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices .. 0

(5) Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders .. 13

(6) Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act 35

(f) **Housing Improvement Grants**

(1) Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants 8

(2) Discretionary Improvement Grants approved 8

(3) Schemes completed 15

Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following tables:—

Year	Applications			Completions	
	Received	Approved	Grant Approved	No.	Grant Paid
1949	1	0	—	—	—
1950	9	0	—	—	—
1951	1	0	—	—	—
1952	0	0	—	—	—
1953	7	2	£400 0 0	1	£200 0 0
1954	19	18	£4,093 10 0	4	£740 0 0
1955	49	48	£11,113 0 0	20	£5,726 10 0
1956	49	48	£13,322 0 0	38	£7,746 0 0
1957	46	46	£12,414 0 0	40	£10,868 0 0
1958	36	34	£9,560 0 0	45	£12,174 0 0
1959	50	50	£13,716 0 0	32	£8,661 0 0
1960	24	23	£7,503 0 0	43	£12,233 0 0
1961	42	42	£13,567 0 0	24	£8,237 0 0
1962	31	30	£9,677 0 0	33	£10,534 0 0
1963	26	25	£8,085 0 0	19	£6,033 0 0
1964	22	22	£6,194 0 0	14	£4,527 0 0
1965	15	15	£4,326 0 0	19	£5,865 0 0
1966	11	11	£4,208 0 0	20	£5,913 0 0
1967	14	14	£5,015 0 0	9	£3,009 0 0
1968	8	8	£2,655 0 0	15	£5,562 0 0
Totals	460	436	£125,848 10 0	376	£108,028 10 0

Year	Houses Occupied by			Totals
	Agricultural Workers	Other Tenants	Owners	
1949 to 1953	1	1	0	2
1954	9	6	3	18
1955	16	24	8	48
1956	21	11	16	48
1957	27	11	8	46
1958	20	6	8	34
1959	23	12	15	50
1960	6	5	12	23
1961	20	8	14	42
1962	12	6	12	30
1963	7	8	10	25
1964	5	11	6	22
1965	5	5	5	15
1966	2	1	8	11
1967	0	5	9	14
1968	2	3	3	8
Totals	176	123	137	436

(4) Applications for Standard Grants 14

(5) Standard Grants approved 14

(6) Schemes completed 11

Details regarding Standard Grants are given in the following tables:—

Year	Applications			Completions		
	Received	Approved	Maximum Grant Approved	No.	Amount of Standard Grant	
					Maximum Approved	Actual Paid
1959	15	15	£1,855	0	—	—
1960	43	43	£5,920	14	£1,725	£1,563 14 0
1961	25	25	£3,570	24	£2,990	£2,679 13 7
1962	7	7	£1,045	17	£2,480	£2,378 11 1
1963	16	14	£2,020	14	£2,060	£1,875 9 4
1964	11	11	£1,500	12	£1,750	£1,577 0 3
1965	15	15	£2,346	11	£1,495	£1,480 9 0
1966	5	5	£900	13	£2,241	£2,082 0 0
1967	14	14	£2,329	6	£926	£895 14 11
1968	14	14	£2,726	11	£1,935	£1,935 0 0
Totals	165	163	£24,211	122	£17,602	£16,467 12 2

Year	Houses Occupied by			Totals
	Agricultural Workers	Other Tenants	Owners	
1959	0	4	11	15
1960	18	5	20	43
1961	8	3	14	25
1962	2	0	5	7
1963	1	6	7	14
1964	4	0	7	11
1965	1	3	11	15
1966	1	0	4	5
1967	0	5	9	14
1968	0	5	9	14
Totals	35	31	97	163

(g) Loans for Repairing or Improving Houses

(7) Applications for Repair/Improvement Loans 3

(8) Repair/Improvement Loans Approved 1

Details regarding Repair/Improvement Loans are given in the following tables:—

Year	Applications		
	Received	Approved	Amount of Loan
1956	4	4	£1,450
1957	3	3	£1,795
1958	—	—	—
1959	1	1	£1,000
1960	3	3	£1,750
1961	4	4	£4,190
1962	4	4	£3,600
1963	—	—	—
1964	—	—	—
1965	—	—	—
1966	4	4	£7,900
1967	1	1	£1,930
1968	3	1	£600
Totals	27	25	£24,215

Parish distribution of Discretionary Improvement Grants, Standard Grant and Financial Loans for repairing or improving houses, is given in the following table:—

Parish	Discretionary Improvement Grants	Standard Grants	Repair/ Improvement Loans	Totals
Alphamstone	2	3	0	5
Ashen	11	3	0	14
Belchamp Otten ..	6	4	1	11
Belchamp St. Paul ..	15	3	0	18
Belchamp Walter ..	11	3	0	14
Birdbrook..	8	4	0	12
Borley	1	3	0	4
Bulmer	7	13	0	20
Bures Hamlet	4	13	0	17
Castle Hedingham ..	17	4	0	21
Colne Engaine	42	9	11	62
Earls Colne	46	9	0	55
Foxearth	9	5	1	15
Gestingthorpe	8	3	1	12
Gosfield	30	6	0	36
Great Henny	5	0	2	7
Great Maplestead ..	9	0	1	10
Great Yeldham ..	13	6	0	19
Halstead Rural	50	14	0	64
Helions Bumpstead ..	14	2	0	16
Lamarsh	1	2	0	3
Liston	0	0	0	0
Little Henny	1	0	0	1
Little Maplestead ..	5	4	0	9
Little Yeldham	5	1	0	6
Middleton	3	2	0	5
Ovington	3	4	0	7
Pebmarsh	12	2	0	14
Pentlow	3	0	0	3
Ridgewell	4	5	1	10
Sible Hedingham.. ..	38	13	5	56
Stambourne	4	1	0	5
Steeple Bumpstead ..	16	10	0	26
Sturmer	4	2	0	6
Tilbury-juxta-Clare ..	3	0	0	3
Toppesfield	10	7	1	18
Twinstead	3	0	1	4
White Colne	12	1	0	13
Wickham St. Paul ..	1	2	0	3
Totals ..	436	163	25	624

(h) **Rent Act**

(1)	Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	0
(2)	Decisions to issue Certificates	0
(3)	Undertakings given by Landlords	0
(4)	Certificates of Disrepair issued	0
(5)	Applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	0
(6)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	0
(7)	Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	0

(i) **Housing Overcrowding**

(1)	Overcrowded houses existing December, 1967	1
(2)	Overcrowded houses found during 1968	0
(3)	Overcrowded houses relieved during 1968	0
(4)	Overcrowded houses existing December, 1968	1
(5)	Informal Notices served regarding abatement of overcrowding	0

(j) **Caravan Sites**

At the end of the year one caravan site licence for 58 caravans had been granted and there were 31 individual licensed caravan sites in the District. Most were used as permanent residences.

(k) **Miscellaneous Housing Matters**

During the year 76 houses were built by private enterprise. Twelve two-bedroom bungalows were built by the Council. Forty-one existing Council houses were variously improved to present day standards of amenity by the provision of bathrooms, internal water closets, hot water supplies, improved drainage systems, etc.

Houses owned by the Council at the end of the year from information supplied by the Council's Housing Officer were:—

Pre-war.	Houses	427
Post-war.	Houses and Bungalows	893
	Flats and Flatlets (1 block of 20, 1 block of 16, 1 block of 12, 1 block of 8, 12 blocks of 4, 4 blocks of 2)	112

Houses sold by Council to tenants:—

(a)	During 1968	0
(b)	Total (11 pre-war and 10 post-war)	21

There were no registered Common Lodging Houses nor unsatisfactory Houses in Multiple Occupation in the District.

2. FOOD

(a) Food, Food Hygiene and Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors of the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Having wash hand basins with hot and cold water (Reg. 16)	Having sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)	Required to have sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)
Bakehouses	1	2	1	1	1
Bread and Confectioners	2	0	1	2	2
Bread Distribution Depots	1	3	1	1	1
Dairies and Milk Distributors	5	13	3	3	1
Egg Packing Premises	1	0	1	1	1
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers	3	5	1	2	3
Game Dealers' Premises	1	3	—	—	1
General Provisions Shops	51	125	27	23	51
Greengrocers	1	7	—	—	1
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	46	7	24	—	—
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	9	0	8	9	9
Meat Shops	10	52	8	9	10
Poultry Processing Premises	4	20	—	—	4
Public Houses and Inns	64	94	7	60	61
Restaurants and Cafes	11	25	6	10	11
School Kitchens	19	11	13	19	19
Slaughterhouses	1	160	1	1	1
Social Clubs	3	6	2	3	3
Street Vendors	—	7	—	—	—
Sweet Confectioners	5	6	3	1	4
Works Canteens	4	8	4	4	4
Miscellaneous	4	6	3	2	2
Totals	246	560	114	151	190

Food premises fully surveyed	89
Food poisoning investigations	0
Informal Notices served	99
Food premises improved	12
Food vehicles improved	0

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year.

The co-operation of food traders in improving the hygienic handling and storage of food was appreciated, but further improvements are desirable and progress is very dependent upon public opinion.

(b) **Food Premises Improvements**

Type of Food Premises	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities		Food Storage and Display	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash Hand Notices Displayed	Totals
						Wash-hand Basins	Sinks							
Dairies and Milk Distributors ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Game Dealers' Premises	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
General Provision Shops	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	6
Meat Shops ..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Public House and Inns	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Social Clubs ..	0	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	8
Sweet Confectioners	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Works Canteens ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Totals ..	2	6	3	1	1	2	0	3	2	0	2	0	1	23

(c) **Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses**

One slaughterhouse was licensed by the Council and used by two local butchers during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on three days per week. This regular slaughtering of animals at fixed times on fixed days was approved by the Council.

All animals slaughtered in the District were inspected in accordance with statutory requirements for fitness of the meat and offal for human consumption and, if passed, marked before leaving the slaughterhouse.

One specimen was submitted to the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for examination.

Charges for meat inspection of 2/6 per bovine animal, 9d. per calf or pig, and 6d. per sheep, lamb or goat remained in force.

Details of meat inspection carried out by Public Health Inspectors at the slaughterhouses are given in the following table:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	278	0	1	405	385	0
No. Inspected	278	0	1	405	385	0
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
(a) Whole carcase condemned..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	29	0	0	9	19	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	10·4	0	0	2·22	4·93	0
Tuberculosis only						
(a) Whole carcases condemned..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	5	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	1·29	0
Cysticercosis						
(a) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ..	1	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0

Licensed Slaughtermen: 5

(d) **Poultry Inspection at Poultry Processing Premises**

Four poultry processing premises were in operation during the year, and had a total weekly throughput of approximately 6,900 birds. Regular routine inspection by Public Health Inspectors for their fitness for human consumption was not practicable, but occasional examinations were made as possible.

(e) **Milk and Dairies**

The Council remained responsible for the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the supervision of dairy farms. Dealers' licences were granted by the Essex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and permitted sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority.

Bacteriological milk sampling and also routine sampling for biological examination for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus was carried out by the Essex County Council. No herds with brucella abortus infection were notified by the County Council.

Thirteen inspections were made during the year of the 5 registered dairy premises.

(f) **Liquid Egg Processing Premises**

There were no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the District, and no samples of liquid egg were submitted for the prescribed test.

(g) **Ice Cream**

There were no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but 46 premises were registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

Details of samples of ice cream and ice lollies taken for bacteriological examination are given in the following tables:—

Ministry of Health Provisional Grade	No. of Ice Cream Samples	Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Cream Samples
I	9	Satisfactory	9

Bacteriological Classification	No. of Ice Lolly Samples
Satisfactory	5

(h) **General**

Only two complaints were received during the year regarding unfit food, food handlers' unhygienic practices or uncleanly food premises, as follows:—

Food	Complaint
Tin of Beetroot	Discolouration
Bottle of Milk	Dirty Bottle

In both cases detailed investigations were carried out and appropriate informal action taken. Progress in these matters is, however, hindered by reticence on the part of the public in making official complaints.

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc.

(i) **Unsound Food**

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food, which resulted in the following commodities being voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	278 lbs.
Pork	77 lbs.
Mutton	22 lbs.
Tinned Foods	95 lbs.
Total ..	472 lbs.

This condemned food was stained and disposed of either by burial in deep refuse pits or by sterilisation at licensed Waste Food Boiling Premises.

No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

3. AIR POLLUTION

(a) **New Furnace and Chimney Installations**

(1) Notices submitted with plans and specifications of proposals to install furnaces and chimneys to which the Clean Air Act applies.. 0

(2) Approvals granted of such plans and specifications for the purposes of the Clean Air Act 0

(b) **Air Pollution Nuisances**

(1) Investigations 7

(2) Confirmed 0

(3) Abated 3

No smoke control areas were declared by the Council or confirmed by the Minister during the year.

4. WASTE MATTERS

(a) **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor.

Comprehensive sewerage and sewage disposal schemes served 14 parishes (Birdbrook (Baythorn End), Bures Hamlet, Castle Hedingham, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Foxearth, Gosfield, Great Yeldham, Halstead Rural (Greenstead Green), Pebmarsh, Ridgewell, Sible Hedingham, Steeple Bumpstead and Toppesfield). In addition eight small public sewers and sewage disposal works for Council houses and nearby private properties served parts of the parishes of Bulmer, Gestingthorpe, Great Maplestead, Helions Bumpstead, Little Yeldham, Pentlow, Sible Hedingham and Wickham St. Paul.

Properties connected to the new public sewers constructed by the Council during the post war years, expressed as a percentage of properties capable of connection, together with the dates the schemes were completed:—

Birdbrook (Baythorn End)	(May 1962)	100%
Castle Hedingham	(June, 1961)	99%
Colne Engaine	(July, 1964)	97%
Foxearth	(January, 1967)	96%
Gosfield	(March, 1961)	98%
Great Yeldham	(June, 1961)	89%
Halstead Rural (Greenstead Green)	(August, 1962)	98%
Pebmarsh	(April, 1963)	80%
Ridgewell	(March, 1965)	86%
Sible Hedingham	(June, 1961)	89%
Toppesfield	(March, 1963)	92%

Work commenced on the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Belchamp St. Paul in July and was 60% completed by the end of the year.

A scheme for improvements and extension to the sewerage and sewage disposal works serving Castle and Sible Hedingham and Great Yeldham received Ministerial approval in principle.

A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Sturmer, Steeple Bumpstead and Helions Bumpstead and one for Bulmer awaited Ministerial approval. A sewerage scheme for the Colchester Road area of White Colne was in the course of preparation by the Council's consulting engineers.

The parishes of Belchamp Walter, Birdbrook (The Street) and Stambourne had been given priority regarding their need for sewerage and sewage disposal schemes in the near future, as also had remedial works at Tilbury-juxta-Clare. Schemes for Ashen, Gestingthorpe, Great Maplestead, Lamarsh, Middleton, Little Yeldham and Wickham St. Paul were considered for possible inclusion in the Council's future public sewerage proposals.

One hundred and nine inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers and sewer ditches following complaints, and certain unsatisfactory conditions such as blockages, need of cleansing, etc., were remedied.

Surveys of villages under consideration for sewerage schemes, involving 80 inspections, were carried out by Public Health Inspectors to provide evidence as to need on public health grounds for such schemes in support of the Council's application for approval and grant aid from the County Council and the Ministry, and also to provide information to the Council's consulting engineers.

(b) **Drainage**

Drainage was part of the duties of Public Health Inspectors. Due to the comparatively recent availability of mains water supply and public sewerage facilities in parts of the District, with the consequent desire for modern sanitary fittings in houses and most other premises, these duties again had to take some priority in the Department's work.

There was no scheme operated by the Council for emptying cesspools or sewage tanks in the District (except at Council houses), and householders made their own arrangements with private contractors.

(i) Drainage Duties

1.	Plans examined regarding drainage proposals	283
2.	Drainage investigations and advisory visits	131
3.	Drainage inspections	1,454
4.	Inspection of ditches, etc.	109
5.	Drainage tests	103
6.	Informal Notices served	18
7.	Statutory Notices served	2
8.	Statutory Notices complied with	1

(ii) Drainage Improvements

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors, the following improvements were effected:—

1.	Premises drained to sewers	31
2.	Premises drained to septic tanks	76
3.	Drains reconstructed	61
4.	Drains cleansed	8
5.	Ditches cleansed	7

(c) **Sanitary Fittings and Conveniences**

There is a need in the District for the conversion of earth closets into water closets and for the provision of baths to dwellings. In the more urbanised parts of the District there is also a need for the provision of public conveniences.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors the following improvements were effected:—

1.	New sanitary conveniences provided	205
2.	New urinals provided	3
3.	Sinks provided	129
4.	Baths provided	137
5.	Showers provided	7
6.	Wash-hand basins provided	187
7.	Sanitary conveniences reconstructed	0

(d) **Refuse Storage and Disposal**

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Engineer and Surveyor. The Council possessed 5 refuse collecting vehicles, which removed house refuse at fortnightly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on refuse tips at Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham and White Colne, and at Sudbury Borough Council's tip at Bulmer.

Special collections of bulky domestic refuse were undertaken free of charge in order to discourage the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the countryside, and free tipping facilities were provided in accordance with the Civic Amenities Act 1967.

It was not possible to introduce a weekly kerbside refuse collection service throughout the Rural District on the 1st July, 1968 as planned, because the necessary scheme of bonus payments to workmen had not received clearance under the Prices and Income legislation even by the end of the year.

Seventeen inspections of refuse tips and 20 inspections regarding refuse accumulations were made by Public Health Inspectors.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors 6 accumulations of refuse were removed and 3 dustbins provided.

(e) **Flood Relief**

The scheme for flood relief at Steeple Bumpstead by the construction of a new channel for the length of Bumpstead Brook between the footbridge and Claywall Bridge was completed in June.

5. WORKING CONDITIONS

(a) **Factories**

(1) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	4	1	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	50	7	0	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	—	0	0	0
Totals	54	8	0	0

(2) Defects Found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	0	1	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	0	2	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	0	1	0	0	0
Totals ..	0	4	0	0	0

(3) Outworkers

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134			Inspections
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel —Making, etc.	9	0	0	0	0	0	14
Carbon Jig Assembly	5						

(b) **Offices, Shops and Railway Premises**

During the year only 8 new premises were registered, all of which received a general inspection.

No serious contraventions were observed. Thirteen informal notices were served in respect of various contraventions found during routine inspections, and 14 informal notices were complied with.

No accidents were reported during the year. No applications were received for exemption from the provisions relating to room space for employees, temperature, sanitary conveniences and running water supply to washing facilities.

The following tables give details of:—

(1) Premises registered and inspections.

(2) Contraventions.

(3) Improvements following informal action taken by Public Health Inspectors.

TABLE 1 PREMISES REGISTERED AND INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Premises registered during year	Registered premises at end of year	Registered premises general inspection	Total visits of all kinds	Persons Employed			
					Male		Female	
					Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.	Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.
Offices	2	14	4	40	—	59	1	26
Retail Shops	4	43	15	136	2	37	13	76
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	1	4	2	23	1	62	—	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	7	4	38	—	6	1	15
Fuel storage depots	0	3	0	6	—	13	—	—
Totals ..	8	71	25	243	3	177	15	118

TABLE 2 CONTRAVENTIONS

Premises	Information	Cleanliness and Decorations	Overcrowding	Temperature	Ventilation	Lighting	Sanitary Conveniences	Washing Facilities	Drinking Water	Clothing	Sitting Facilities	Eating Facilities	Floors and Stairs	Dangerous Machinery	Young Persons	Supervision	Health and Safety	Noise	Heavy Work	First Aid	Miscellaneous	Totals
Offices	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12
Retail Shops	0	4	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	21
Warehouses and Wholesale Shops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Catering Establishments	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	13
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	2	5	0	2	8	0	2	3	1	1	2	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	46

TABLE 3 IMPROVEMENTS

Offices	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Retail Shops	5	3	0	4	4	3	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	30
Warehouses and Wholesale Shops	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Catering Establishments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
Fuel Storage Depots	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
Totals	6	3	0	5	4	3	3	3	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	40

(c) **Miscellaneous**

Premises	No. in District	Inspections
Places of Entertainment	46	0
Schools	22	11

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops) 0

Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation 0

6. WATER

The water supply of the area was satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity although from 1st April, 1968 to 30th September, 1968 it was necessary to prohibit the use of hosepipes for gardens, car-washing, etc. Restrictions on the number of houses to be built on account of shortage of water in North-East Essex were relaxed from June. The Council's own District Water Scheme borewell supply was chlorinated and softened, and none of the public mains supplies had a plumbo-solvent action.

The new 6in. main from Monks Hill, Steeple Bumpstead reservoir to Lily Corner was completed in February. The construction of the Little Maplestead reservoir was also completed in November. Distribution of water from the reservoir was, however, delayed pending the obtaining of satisfactory laboratory analyses of the water.

A licence was also obtained from the Essex River Authority permitting the Council to extract 700,000 gallons of water per day from the two Great Yeldham bores for the period 1st January, 1969 to 31st March, 1970, following the expiration of the Council's existing licence to extract 450,000 gallons per day until 31st December, 1968.

The water consumption in the District from public piped mains supplies was estimated to be 38 gallons per head per day. This is based upon the Council's Water Engineer's calculations of:—

(a) Estimated population served 15,900

(b) Water supplied during year from:—

(1) Council's District Water Scheme borewell .. .. 213,134,000 gallons

(2) West Suffolk Water Board mains.. 188,000 gallons

(3) Colchester and District Water Board mains .. .. 10,170,000 gallons

(4) Lee Valley Water Company mains.. 11,266,000 gallons

(5) Halstead Urban District Council mains .. .. 1,558,000 gallons

(c) Bulk supplies from Council's District Water Scheme to Halstead Urban District Council of 3,931,000 gallons and to West Suffolk Water Board of 5,932,000 gallons

As routine procedure samples of the District Water Scheme supply were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination monthly, and samples of all other mains water supplies quarterly. The District Water Scheme samples included some of raw water direct from the borewell. Samples for chemical analysis were also taken.

During the year 168 premises were connected to the water mains and the following work was carried out by your Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies 73

(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies 0

(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies 7

(d) Premises connected to water mains following Statutory Notice 1

(e) Premises connected to water mains following informal action 3

(f) Wells improved following informal action 0

(g) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table 55

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	31	29	2
Private Water Mains	20	16	4
Public Wells, etc.	0	0	0
Private Wells, etc.	4	3	1
Totals ..	55	48	7

(h) Samples of water examined for Chlorine content: 12

Public Swimming Baths

There were no public swimming baths in the District. Part of Gosfield Lake continued in use as a public bathing pool. During the bathing season 3 samples were taken for chemical analysis and 5 for bacteriological examination which showed the water to be of a somewhat inferior organic quality, showing a yellowish-brown opalescence. The bacteriological results, however, compare very favourably with those in many natural waters used for bathing.

Typical Chemical Analyses of Public and Private Mains Water Supplies in the District, given in parts per million, are shown in the following table:

Examination For	Supply							
	Public				Private			
	Halstead R.D.C. Gt. Yeldham Borewell	West Suffolk Water Board	Colchester and District Water Board	Lee Valley Water Company (Hempstead)	George Courtauld Farms Ltd. C'lne Eng'ne	R. Hunt & Co. Ltd., Earls Colne	Paines Manor Pentlow	Rippers Ltd., Sible Hedingham
Turbidity	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Less than 3	Less than 3	Nil	Nil
Colour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH	9·4	7·5	7·8	7·3	7·5	7·7	7·3	7·3
Free Carbon Dioxide	Absent	20	11	28	18	10	34	30
Electric Conductivity	500	960	850	580	820	950	590	580
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C.	350	640	565	385	550	640	395	385
Chlorine present as Chloride	66	40	112	20	118	158	27	32
Alkilinity as Calcium Carbonate	45	320	325	270	285	240	310	275
Hardness: Total	155	550	315	325	270	180	345	320
Carbonate (Temporary)	45	320	315	270	270	180	310	275
Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	110	230	0	55	0	0	35	45
Nitrate Nitrogen	1·4	1·8	0·3	4·2	0·6	2·2	2·2	2·4
Nitrite Nitrogen	0·01	0·01	Absent	Absent	Absent	0·01	Absent	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0·25	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·02	0·04	0·01	0·01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0·00	0·03	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·00	0·00
Oxygen Absorbed	0·16	0·20	0·00	0·10	0·10	0·20	0·00	0·00
Residual Chlorine	0·19	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Metals: Iron	0·05	0·08	0·06	Absent	0·14	0·14	0·04	Absent
Zinc	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	5·0	Absent
Copper, Lead	Absent	Absent	0·03	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Fluoride	0·5	0·3	0·6	0·2	1·4	2·2	0·1	0·1

7. PESTS

(a) **Insect Pests**

The District continued to be comparatively free from household insect pest infestations. No premises were found with bed bug infestations. A total of 30 inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors regarding insect pests and 6 premises were disinfested. Supplies of pesticides, insecticides, etc., were also issued free to private householders. Pests dealt with included cockroaches, flies, ants, carpet beetles, fleas, mosquitoes, wasps, bats, beetles, clover mites, gooseberry red spider mites, silver fish, etc. No major insect pest infestations occurred at the Council's refuse dumps, but they were dusted with insecticidal powder as a routine measure.

(b) **Rodent Control**

The Council operated a rat and mouse disinfestation service for occupiers of private and business premises on a basis of repayment of the cost of time, transport and materials. From April a free rat and mouse disinfestation service, at the discretion of the Public Health Inspector, was put into operation for occupiers of domestic premises. Poison bait was also issued free to private householders.

There was no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse dumps, etc., were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by your Public Health Inspectors and part-time Rodent Operator during the year were:—

No.	Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in District ..	7,981	450
2a.	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	148	3
2b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	127	3
	(ii) Mice	21	0
3a.	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	919	28
3b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	6	0
	(ii) Mice	1	0
	Sewers		
4.	No sewers were found to be infested by rats during the year.		

The Council's rodent control service treated 77 infestations, 56 rats and 21 mice at non-agricultural premises, and 41 rat infestations at Council premises, sewerage works, refuse dumps, etc.

Three informal notices were served in respect of rat infestations at 2 non-agricultural premises and 1 agricultural premise. Four non-agricultural premises were rat disinfested by private persons or contractors following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

One "Block Control" scheme in respect of 6 houses was carried out.
There was no evidence of Warfarin-resistant rats having spread to this District during the year.

(c) **Miscellaneous Pests**
Two premises were disinfested in respect of moles, and 1 in respect of voles.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

(a) **Noise Nuisances**	
(1) Investigations	4
(2) Confirmed	1
(3) Abated	1
(b) **Effluvia Nuisances**	
(1) Investigations	11
(2) Confirmed	0
(3) Abated	0
(c) **Keeping of Animals and Poultry Nuisances**	
(1) Investigations	14
(2) Confirmed	4
(3) Abated	4
(d) **Notifiable Diseases**	
(1) Investigations	0
(2) Premises Disinfected	0
(e) **Animal Boarding Establishments**	
(1) Licences granted	2
(2) Inspections	10
(f) **Pet Shops**	
(1) Licences granted	0
(2) Inspections	0
(g) **Rag Flock Stores**	
(1) Licences granted	0
(2) Inspections	0
(h) **Waste Food Boiling Premises**	
(1) Licences granted	1
(2) Inspections	7
(i) **Local Land Charges**	
(1) Reports to Clerk of Council on public health aspects of Official Searches in the Local Land Charges Register	612
(j) **Plans**	
(1) Plans deposited under The Building Regulations examined	283

It is emphasised how important it is that plans should be examined by Public Health Inspectors to avoid works being carried out in accordance with Planning Permissions and Building Regulation Approvals which contravene statutory requirements administered through Public Health Inspectors, especially at food premises, houses, places of employment, shops, factories, etc. Prior consultation with Public Health Inspectors is also particularly important especially when Planning Permissions are sought for such projects as "factory farming" and industrial processes producing noxious fumes, waste products or excessive noise.

(k) **Special Reports**
No special reports were submitted to the Council by the Public Health Inspector during the year.

(l) **Training of Public Health Workers**
Several students (Public Health workers, Teachers, etc.) were conducted on inspection visits of places of public health interest throughout the District.

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